

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ALPINE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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July 20, 2005

Robert H. Schneider, Chair
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

RE: SUPPORT for Bear Valley Water District – Application for Discharge Order
under the National Pollutant Elimination Discharge System (NPDES)

Dear Chair Schneider and Honorable Board Members:

The Alpine County Board of Supervisors wishes to express its support for the Bear Valley Water District's application for permit authorization to discharge treated waste water into Blood's Creek under the National Pollutant Elimination Discharge System (NPDES).

The Bear Valley Water District's facility and treatment ponds are located at an elevation in excess of 7,000 feet. Currently, the effluent disposal capacity of the District's wastewater facility is less than the amount of total water entering the system. No additional land is available for expansion of the existing land disposal and reclamation fields. During recent wet years, the District has entered the winter season with a substantial amount of water still in its storage reservoir from the previous winter. As a result, unauthorized emergency discharges into Blood's Creek have been necessary at the end of some recent snow melt seasons. Therefore, the District has proposed an increase in the allowable maximum effluent discharge flow during these extraordinary seasonal events. Although the maximum daily flow rate requested is relatively high for so small an operating system, it provides for the discharge of a larger volume of wastewater into Blood's Creek over a shorter period of time, when spring stream flows are high. The proposed discharge will occur only when necessary, during extremely wet winter periods, during snow melting season, and only when effluent can receive at least 20:1 dilution from the receiving water.

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The Alpine County Board of Supervisors believes the Bear Valley Water District has developed a comprehensive Monitoring and Reporting Program under which the proposed application and Order shall be administered. Without your support, continued unauthorized discharges may be necessary, should the County experience another above average snow season. If you have any questions, please contact Supervisor Terry Woodrow at 209 753-2551. Your consideration of our position is appreciated.

Very truly yours,



DONALD M. JARDINE
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Cc: Bear Valley Water District
Alpine County HHS – Environmental Health
C. Vaughn, Central Valley RWQCB